

REMARKS

1. Claim 15 has been modified to include limitations specific to the current patent application, which clearly distinguish it from the prior art (including Power et. al., US Patent 5,982,924). Antecedent basis in the specification: see top of p. 3, and in greater detail: the section entitled "Color image reproduction steps" on pp. 9-11.
2. Claim 16 is cancelled
3. Dependent claim 17 is added, and includes subject matter previously within claim 16.
4. In claims 12, 13 and 14, we changed the term "normalized relative amounts" to "relative amounts" since relative amounts are normalized by definition.
5. We also added new independent claim 18 and dependent claims 19-22, which protect printed images generated according to the disclosed multi-color dithering method. These images are characterized by:
 - a. "adjacent non-overlapping areas" (antecedent basis in the specification on pp. 5 and 6, and also under the name "side by side non-overlapping areas" in p. 2 lines 15-16 and lines 9-10 from the bottom, p. 5 lines 8-9 from the bottom, p. 6 lines 6-7 and lines 11-12 from the bottom, p. 13 lines 15 and lines 9-10 from the bottom).
 - b. these "adjacent non-overlapping areas" correspond to "partitions of a two-dimensional dither function" (antecedent basis in the specification: see p 6 lines 15-16, and FIGS 4b, 4c; see also dither function in FIG. 11 and corresponding areas in FIG. 12).
 - c. the two-dimensional dither function values define the shapes of the "adjacent non-overlapping areas" (antecedent basis in the specification: see p. 7 lines 20-21; FIG. 7 gives example of dither function values and FIG. 8 (top half) gives examples of corresponding printed areas).

Conclusion

Applicants hope this answer traverse each and every rejection set forth in the above-identified Office Action, placing the claims in condition for immediate allowance. In accordance, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger D. Hersch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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Attachment:

The Abstract starting on a separate sheet (new p. 20).